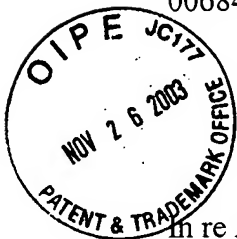


00684.003543

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Makoto SAITO, et al.

Application No.: 10/671,690

Filed: September 29, 2003

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

)  
: Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
: Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
:  
)  
:  
) November 26, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of the non-English patent document also is enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
10/607,309	06/27/2003	2852	Pending	Tomizawa
Unassigned	09/22/2003	Unassigned	Pending	Mochizuki, et al.

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the cited Applications also is enclosed.

### STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no Statement, Petition, or Fee is necessitated by the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

### REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document No. 7-49604 is discussed at least at page 7, lines 9 through 18 of the specification.

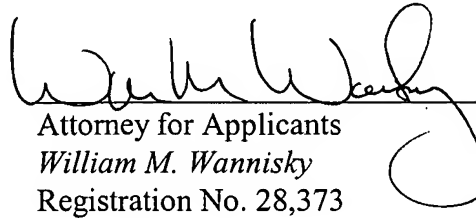
### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WMW:tas

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)			ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>00684.003543</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/671,690</b>	
Submitted to the PTO: November 26, 2003			APPLICANT <b>Makoto SAITO, et al.</b>			
			FILING DATE <b>September 29, 2003</b>		GROUP <b>Unassigned</b>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	6,167,212	12/26/00	Satoh, et al.	399	55		
	6,272,306 B1	08/07/01	Saito, et al.	399	270		
	6,434,348 B1	08/13/02	Tomizawa	399	66		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT		
7-49604	02/21/95	Japan			Abstract		

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.